

REMARKS

Claims in the case are 1 and 3-5, upon entry of this amendment. Claims 1, 3 and 4 have been amended, and Claim 2 has been cancelled herein. No claims have been added herein.

The claims have been amended as to form, e.g., by inserting indefinite and definite articles where appropriate, including indentation, replacing "according to" with --of--, and replacing "characterized in that" with --wherein--. Additional amendments to the claims will be discussed further herein.

Page 1 of the specification has been amended herein to rearrange the section headings such that they now comply with Office requirements. The first and second paragraphs on page 1 of the specification have been amended to remove superfluous and embedded recitations of section headings. In addition, page 1 of the specification has been amended to include cross reference information relative to the German parent patent application number 102 35 966.0.

On page 2 of the Office Action of 5 May 2004, it is stated that "Applicant has not filed a certified copy of the German patent application as required by 35 U.S.C. 119(b)." Applicants respectfully disagree, and submit that a certified copy of the German patent application number 102 35 966.0 was previously filed with the Office. In support of Applicants' contention, attention is directed to the appendix herein which contains: (i) a copy of the cover page of the certified copy of German patent application number 102 35 966.0, which was previously filed with the Office; and (ii) a copy of a return post-card showing that the priority document was previously submitted to the Office.

In light of the preceding remarks, and the evidentiary items included herewith, Applicants respectfully submit that the requirements relating to their claim of priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 to German patent application number 102 35 966.0 have been met. Reconsideration and recognition of Applicants' claim of priority to German patent application number 102 35 966.0 is respectfully requested.

The abstract stands objected to. The abstract has been replaced with a new one (having only a single paragraph) which is enclosed herewith on a separate sheet.

Claims 1, 3, 4 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 6,703,058 (**Hammer '058**) in view of United States Patent No. 5,595,796 (**Hammer '796**). This rejection is respectfully traversed with regard to the amendments herein and the following remarks.

Hammer '058 and Hammer '796, either alone or in combination, do not disclose, teach or suggest the sausage casing of Applicants' present claims, the inner surface coating of which has a weight ratio of (i) chromium-fatty complex and diketene to (ii) polyamine-polyamide-epichorohydrin resin that is greater than or equal to 5 : 1.

It is noted that the present rejection does not include Claim 2. The subject matter of Claim 2 has been incorporated into Claim 1 by amendment herein.

In light of the amendments herein and the preceding remarks, Applicants' claims are deemed to be unobvious and patentable over Hammer '058 in view of Hammer '796. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the present rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication as to the allowability of Claim 2. As mentioned previously herein, Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of Claim 2, and Claim 2 has been cancelled herein. As such, all of Applicants' presently pending claims are deemed to be in condition for allowance.

In light of the amendments herein and the preceding remarks, Applicants' presently pending claims are deemed to define an invention that is unanticipated, unobvious and hence, patentable. Reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of all of the presently pending claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX

Copy of the cover page of certified priority document 102 35 966.0.

Copy of return post-card.